	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/598,201	OKAMURA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thierry L. Pham	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *6/8/06*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3, 5-14, 16-29, 31-44, 46, 49, 52 are allowed, renumbered as 1-44*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

         1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

     (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

         1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

     (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

     Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank Cire on 8/4/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims:

46. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

> input means for inputting an image that is a color image or a monochrome image;

> image processing means for generating a recording image data based on the input image, the image processing means being capable of generating first recording image data for recording the image on a recording material at a predetermined recording density, and of generating second recording image data for recording the image on a recording material at a recording density lower than that of the first recording image data, by reducing the number of recording dots through decimation;

> selecting means for use of an operator in selecting a recording mode from among a normal recording mode, for recording the first recording image data, and a decimation recording mode, for recording the second recording image data;

> determining means for determining if the input image is a color image or a monochrome image; and

> control means for changing to the normal recording mode, when the decimation recording mode is selected by said selecting means and said determining means determines that

the input image is a color image <u>type or a monochrome halftone type</u> whereby the recording

mode <u>which carries out said decimation for generating deterioration for image gradation</u> selected

by the operator is canceled.

47. and 48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

an inputting step, of inputting an image that is a color image or a monochrome

image;

an image processing step, of generating recording image data based on the input

image, the image processing step including generating any of first recording image data, for

recording the image on a recording material at a predetermined recording density, and second

recording image data for recording the image on a recording material at a recording density

lower than that of the first recording image data, by reducing the number of recording dots

through decimation;

a selecting step, of an operator selecting a recording mode from among a normal

recording mode, for recording the first recording image data, and a decimation recording mode,

for recording the second recording image data;

a determining step, of determining if the input image is a color image or a

monochrome image; and

a controlling step, of changing to the normal recording mode, when the

decimation recording mode is selected in said selecting step and said determining step

determines that the input image is a color image <u>type or a monochrome halftone type</u> whereby

the recording mode <u>which carries out said decimation for generating deterioration for image</u>

<u>gradation</u> selected by the operator is canceled.

50. and 51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having recorded thereon executable

codes for implementing a computer implementable image processing method comprising:

an inputting step, of inputting an image that is a color image or a monochrome

image;

an image processing step, of generating recording image data based on the input

image, the image processing step including generating any of first recording image data, for

recording the image on a recording material at a predetermined recording density, and second

recording image data for recording the image on a recording material at a recording density

lower than that of the first recording image data, by reducing the number of recording dots
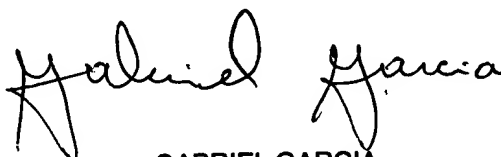
through decimation;

a selecting step, of an operator selecting a recording mode from among a normal

recording mode, for recording the first recording image data, and a decimation recording mode,

for recording the second recording image data;

a determining step, of determining if the input image is a color image or a

monochrome image; and

a controlling step, of changing to the normal recording mode, when the decimation recording mode is selected in said selecting step and it is determined in said determining step that the input image is a color image type or a monochrome halftone type whereby the recording mode which carries out said decimation for generating deterioration for image gradation selected by the operator is canceled.

53. and 54. (Canceled)

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 6/8/06.
- Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-29, 31-44, 46, 49, 52 are allowed, renumbered as 1-44; claims 4, 15, 30, and 45 have been canceled by applicants; claims 47-48, 50-51, 53-54 are herein canceled by Examiner's amendment authorized by applicants' attorney, Frank Cire.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 25-32, filed 6/8/06, with respect to claims 1 & 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1 & 9 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-29, 31-44, 46, 49, 52 are allowed, renumbered as 1-44
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art (US 6204867 to Fujimoto and US 5283667 to Kojima) of record teach an image forming apparatus/system for changing to the appropriate recording mode based upon input image type (i.e. monochrome or color), but fail to teach and/or suggest control means for changing to the first recording mode which does not carry out decimation when input image is a color image type or a monochrome halftone image type, whereby the second recording mode which carries out decimation for generating deterioration for image gradation as selected by the operator is canceled and in combinations of other features as cited in independent claims 1, 16, 31, 46, 49, and 52 (renumbered as 1, 14, 28, 42-44 respectively). In addition, the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest control means for changing to the third recording mode which carries out neither unconditional nor conditional decimation, when the input image is a monochrome halftone image type, whereby the first record mode which carries out unconditional decimation as selected by the operator is canceled and in combinations of other features as cited in claims 9, 24, and 39 (renumbered as 8, 22, 36 respectively). The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, nor found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features as cited in

claims 1, 9, 16, 24, 31, 39, 46, 49, and 52 (renumbered as 1, 8, 14, 22, 28, 36, 42-44 respectively).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham